

Nucleolus Computation in Compact Coalitional Games

The Model

- Players form *coalitions*
- Each coalition is associated with a *worth*
- A *total worth* has to be distributed

$$\mathcal{G} = \langle N, v \rangle, v : 2^N \mapsto \mathbb{R}$$

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- Outcomes belong to the imputation set $X(\mathcal{G})$

$$x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ Efficiency} \\ x(N) = v(N) \\ \bullet \text{ Individual Rationality} \\ x_i \geq v(\{i\}), \quad \forall i \in N \end{array} \right.$$

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-
- **Solution Concepts** characterize outcomes in terms of
 - Fairness
 - Stability

Excess...

- How fairness/stability can be measured?

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$$v(\{1, 2\}) = v(\{1, 3\}) = v(\{2, 3\}) = 1$$

$$v(\{1, 2, 3\}) = 3$$

Excess...

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- The excess is a measure of the dissatisfaction of S

$$x = (0, 0, 3) \longrightarrow e(\{1, 2\}, x) = v(\{1, 2\}) - (x_1 + x_2) = 1 - 0 = 1$$

$$x = (1, 2, 0) \longrightarrow e(\{1, 2\}, x) = v(\{1, 2\}) - (x_1 + x_2) = 1 - 3 = -2$$

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$$\theta(x) = (0, 0, -1, -1, -2, -2)$$

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...and the Nucleolus

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$$x^* = (1, 1, 1)$$

$$\theta(x^*) = (-1, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1)$$

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Definition [Schmeidler]

The *nucleolus* $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{G})$ of a game \mathcal{G} is the set

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{G}) = \{x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \mid \nexists y \in X(\mathcal{G}) \text{ s.t. } \theta(y) \prec \theta(x)\}$$

$$x^* = (1, 1, 1)$$

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$$x = (1, 2, 0)$$

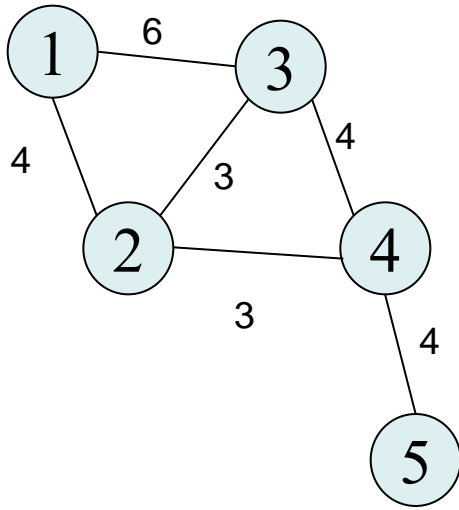
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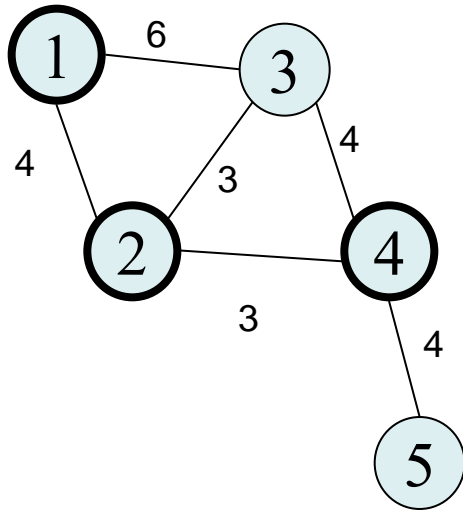
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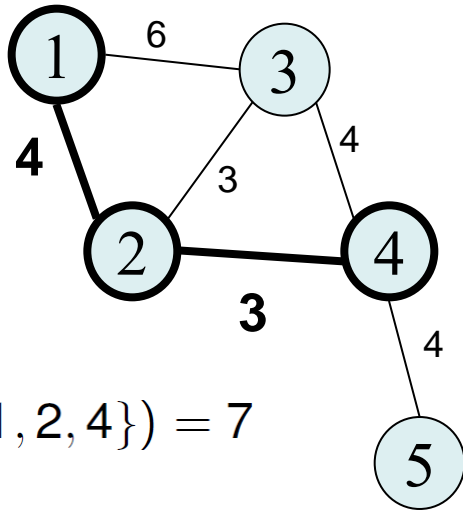
Compact Games



Compact Games

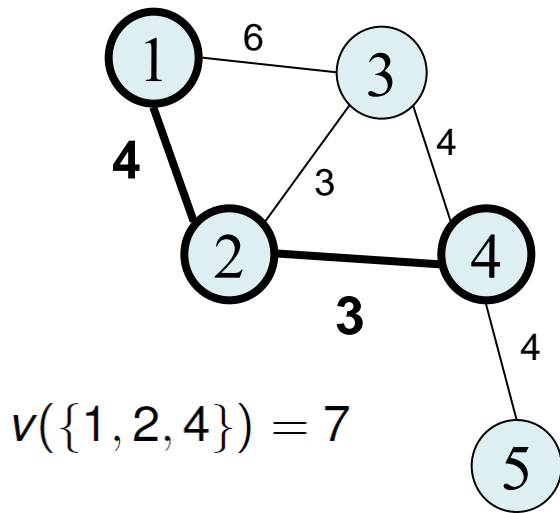


Compact Games



$$v(\{1, 2, 4\}) = 7$$

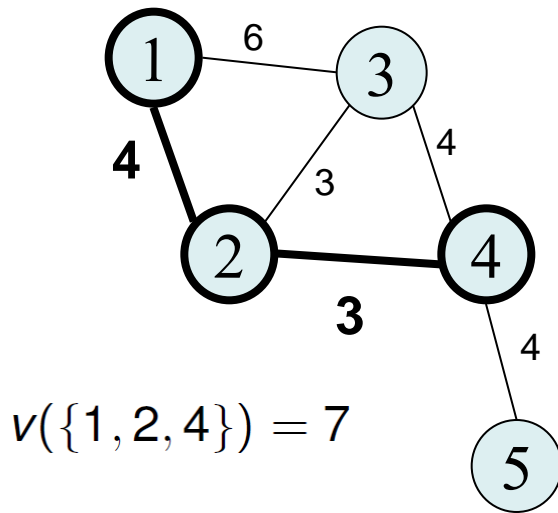
Compact Games



- *Graph Games* [Deng and Papadimitriou, 1994]
 - Computational issues of several solution concepts
 - The *(pre)nucleolus* can be computed in **P**

$$x_i^* = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} w_{i,j}$$

Compact Games



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- *Cost allocation on trees* [Megiddo, 1978]
 - Polynomial time algorithm
 - *Flow games* [Deng, Fang, and Sun, 2006]
 - Polynomial time algorithm on simple networks (unitary edge capacity)
 - **NP**-hard, in general
 - *Weighted voting games* [Elkind and Pasechnik, 2009]
 - Pseudopolynomial algorithm

Computation Approaches

Succinct Linear Programs

Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

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Succinct Linear Programs

Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

Kopelowitz, 1967

$$\text{LP}_1 \begin{cases} \min \epsilon_1 \\ e(S, x) \leq \epsilon_1 \\ x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \end{cases} \quad \forall S \subset N, S \notin W_0 = \{\emptyset\}$$

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$$\text{LP}_1 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min \epsilon_1 \\ e(S, x) \leq \epsilon_1 \\ x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \end{array} \quad \forall S \subset N, S \notin W_0 = \{\emptyset\} \right.$$

$$\text{LP}_2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min \epsilon_2 \\ e(S, x) = \epsilon_1^* \\ e(S, x) \leq \epsilon_2 \\ x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \forall S \in W_1 \\ \forall S \subset N, S \notin (W_0 \cup W_1) \end{array} \right.$$

where:

- $V_1 = \{x \mid (x, \epsilon_1^*) \text{ is an optimal solution to } \text{LP}_1\}$
- $W_1 = \{S \subseteq N \mid e(S, x) = \epsilon_1^*, \text{ for every } x \in V_1\}$

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$$\text{LP}_k \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min \epsilon_k \\ e(S, x) = \epsilon_r^* \quad \forall S \in W_r, r \in \{1, \dots, k-1\} \\ e(S, x) \leq \epsilon_k \quad \forall S \subset N, S \notin (W_0 \cup \dots \cup W_{k-1}) \\ x \in X(\mathcal{G}) \end{array} \right.$$

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How many iterations?

An Example Computation

$$N = 1, \dots, n, n+1, n+2$$

$$v(N) = n+2$$

$$v(\{i\}) = 1, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

$$v(\{1, \dots, n\}) = n$$

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$$v(\{n+1, n+2\}) = 2$$

$$v(S) = -\infty, |\{n+1, n+2\} \cap S| \geq 1, \\ |\{1, \dots, n\} \cap S| \geq 1, S \neq N$$

$$S_1, S_2, \dots \subset \{1, \dots, n\} \quad |S_i| > 1 \\ v(S_i) = |S_i| - 1 + 2^{-i}$$

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$$\epsilon_1^* = 0$$

$$x^* = (1, \dots, 1, x_{n+1}^*, x_{n+2}^*)$$



$$\text{LP}_1 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min \epsilon_1 \\ n - x(\{1, \dots, n\}) \leq \epsilon_1 \\ 2 - x_{n+1} - x_{n+2} \leq \epsilon_1 \\ x(\{1, \dots, n\}) + x_{n+1} + x_{n+2} = n + 2 \\ x_i \geq 1, i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right.$$

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$$\begin{cases} e(S_i, x^*) \leq \epsilon_2 \\ \epsilon_2^* = -1 + 2^{-1} \end{cases}$$

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$$e(S_i, x^*) \leq \epsilon_3$$

$$\left[\epsilon_2^* = -1 + 2^{-1} > \epsilon_3^* = -1 + 2^{-2}, \dots > \right.$$

Kopelowitz, 1967

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Theorem

The algorithm performs $\Omega(2^n)$ steps, in some cases.

cf. Mashler, Peleg, and Shapley, 1979

LP_k

min ϵ_k

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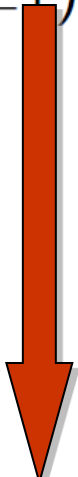
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LP_k

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LP Approaches over Compact Games

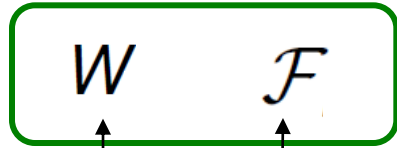
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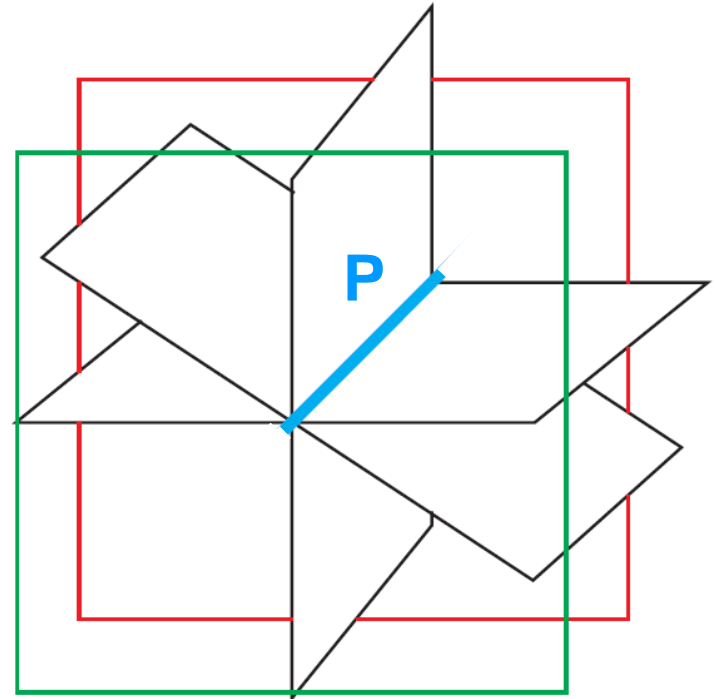
- In compact games, two problems have to be faced:
 - (P1) Sets W and \mathcal{F} contain exponentially many elements, but we would like to avoid listing them explicitly
 - (P2) Translate LP (complexity) results to “succinct programs”

(P1): A Convenient Representation

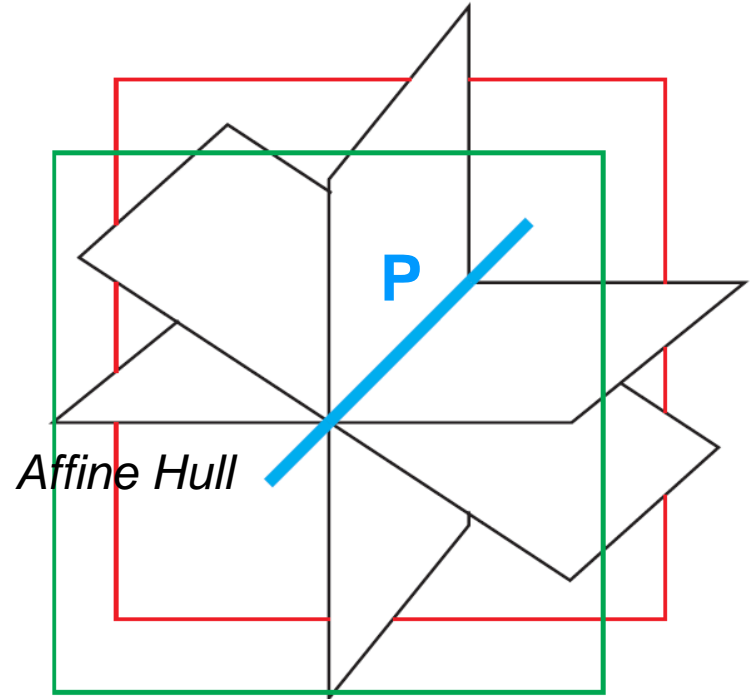
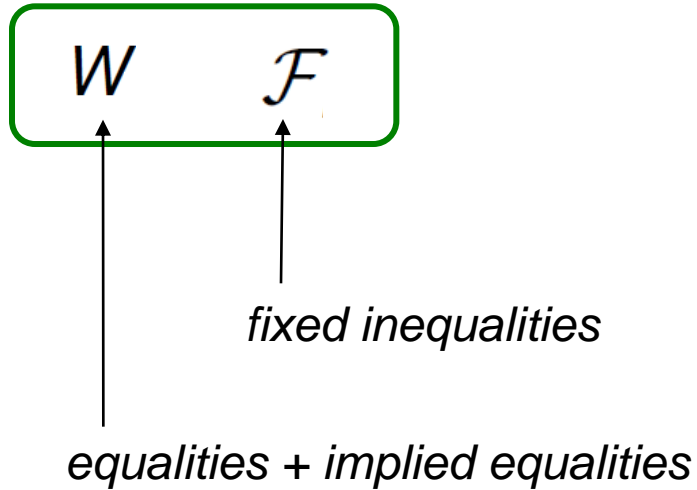


fixed inequalities

equalities + implied equalities



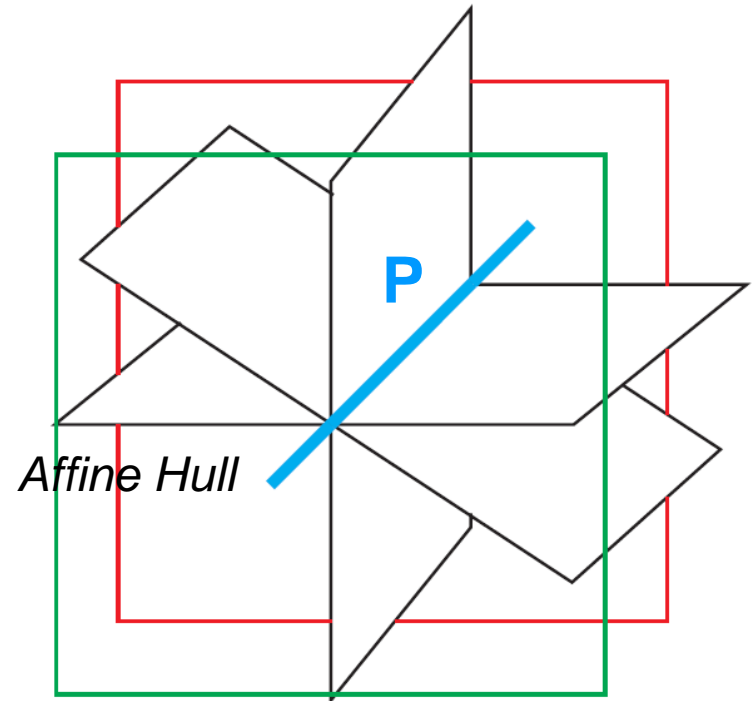
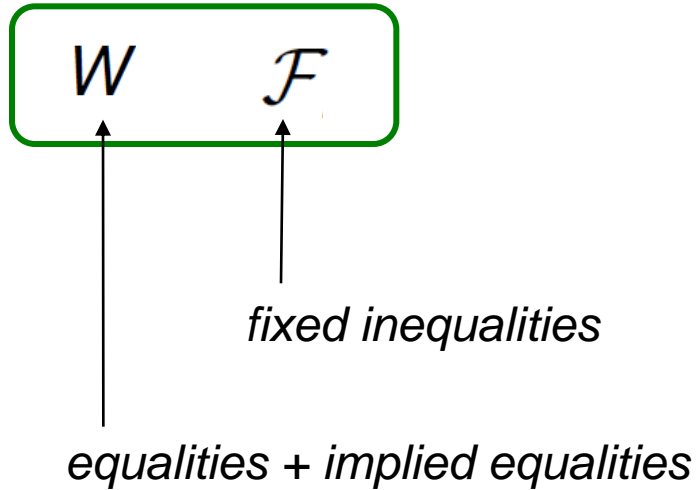
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Theorem

- $aff.hull(V_k) = \text{solutions for equalities over } W_k \cup W_{k-1} \cup \dots \cup W_1$

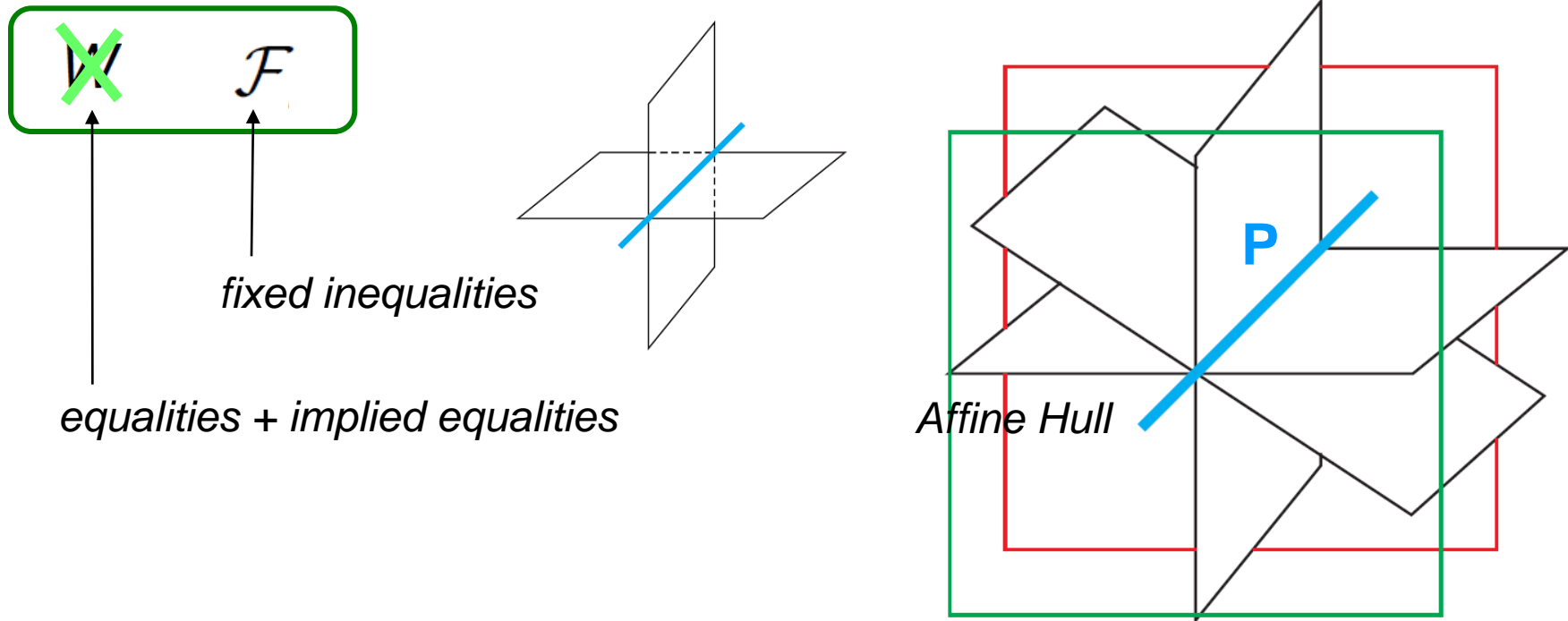
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Theorem

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 $\{S \subseteq N \mid e(S, x) = \epsilon_k^*, \text{ for every } x \in V_k\}$
- Implied equalities equalities

(P1): A Convenient Representation



Theorem

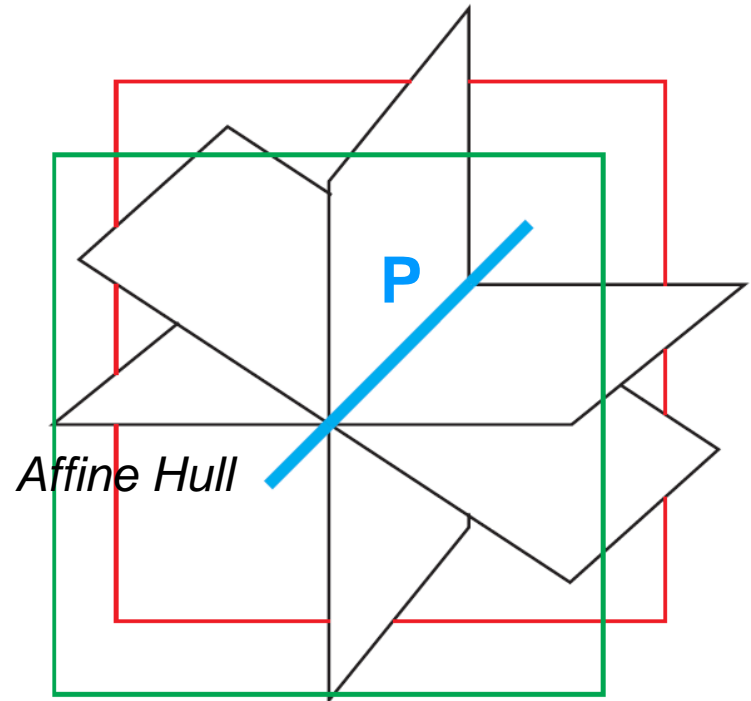
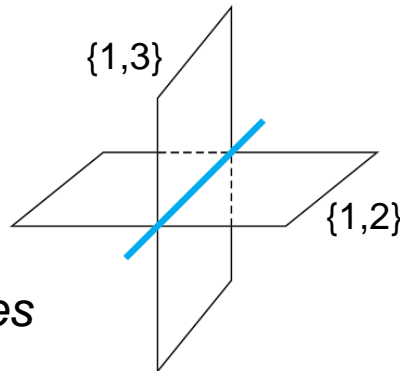
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(P1): A Convenient Representation



equalities + implied equalities

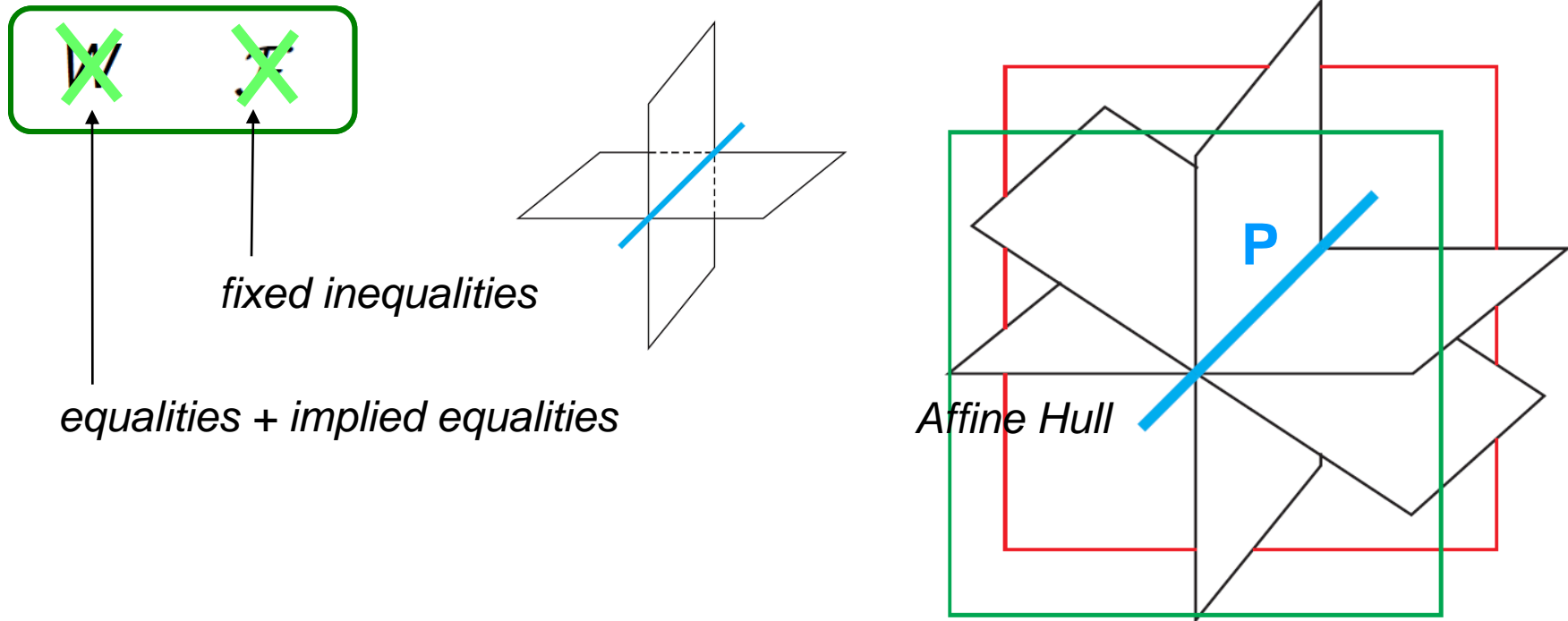
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- $S \in \mathcal{F}_k$ iff S is a linear combination of the indicator vectors for \mathcal{B}_k

(P1): A Convenient Representation



Theorem

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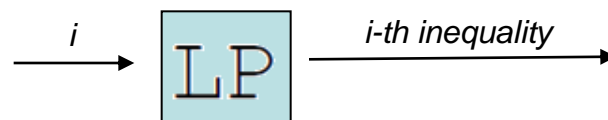
(P1): A Convenient Representation

$$v : 2^N \mapsto \mathbb{R}$$


aff.hull



LP_{k+1}



Theorem

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Computation Approaches

Succinct Linear Programs

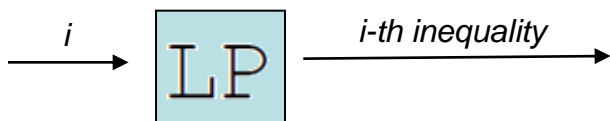
Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

(P2) Computation Problems

- In compact games, two problems have to be faced:
 - (P1) Sets W and \mathcal{F} contain exponentially many elements, but we would like to avoid listing them explicitly
 - (P2) Translate LP (complexity) results to “succinct programs”

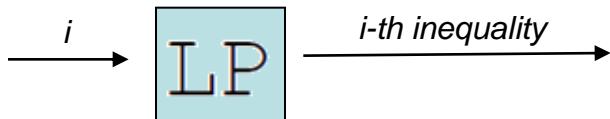
(P2) Computation Problems



Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTYNESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$

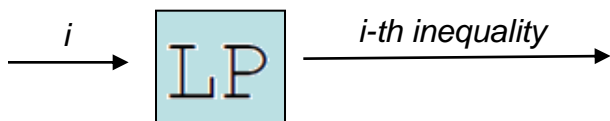
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Complexity Results



Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTINESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$

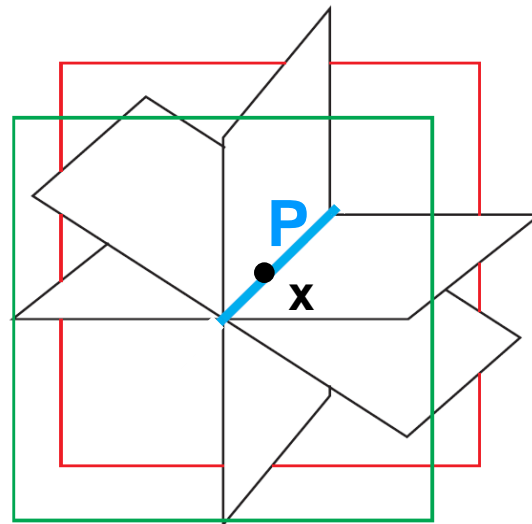
Complexity Results



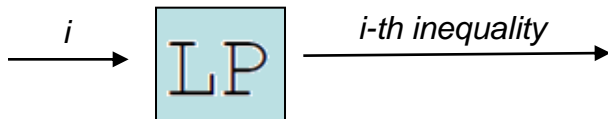
Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTYNESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$

Trivial

- Given a vector \mathbf{x} , we can:
 - Guess an index i
 - Check that the i -th inequality is not satisfied by \mathbf{x}

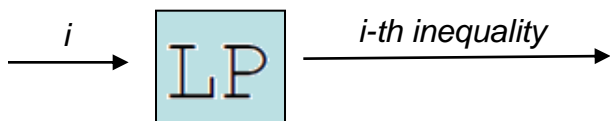


Complexity Results



Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTINESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
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Complexity Results

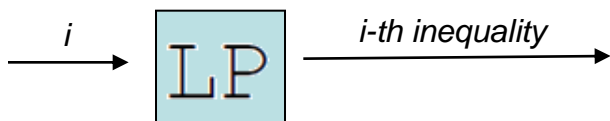


Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTINESS	in co-NP
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AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$

Proof

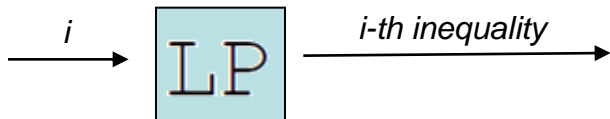
- By **Helly's theorem**, we can solve the complementary problem in **NP**:
 - Guess $n+1$ inequalities
 - Check that they are not satisfiable (in polynomial time)

Complexity Results



Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTINESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
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FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
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Complexity Results

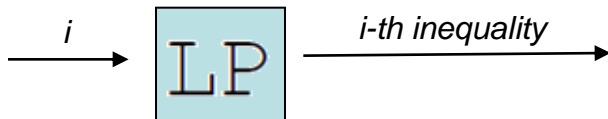


Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTINESS	in co-NP
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AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$

Proof Overview

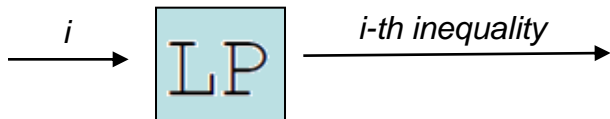
- (1) The dimension is $n-k$ at most, if there are at least k linear independent implied equalities
 - (2) In order to check that the i -th inequality is an implied one, we can guess in **NP** a **support set** $W(i)$, again by Helly's theorem:
 - n inequalities + the i -th inequality treated as strict
 - $W(i)$ is not satisfiable, which can be checked in polynomial time
- Guess k implied equalities plus their support sets
 - Check that they are linear independent

Complexity Results



Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTYNESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$

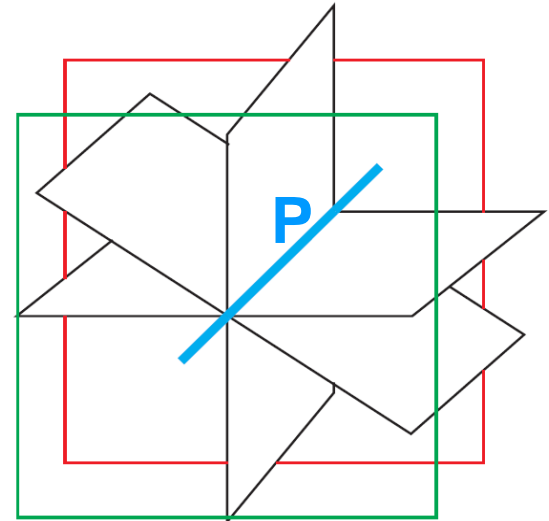
Complexity Results



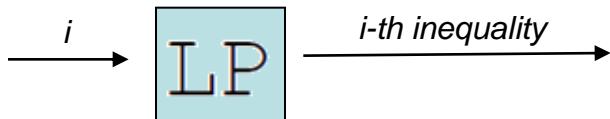
Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
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OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $F\Delta_2^P$

Proof

- (1) Compute the dimension $n-k$, with a *binary search* invoking an **NP** oracle
- (2) Guess k implied equalities plus their support sets

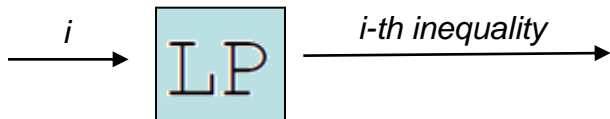


Complexity Results



Problem	Result
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Complexity Results

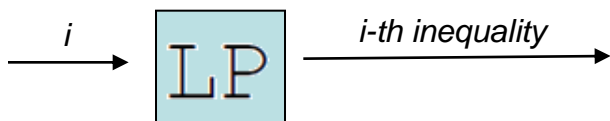


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Routine

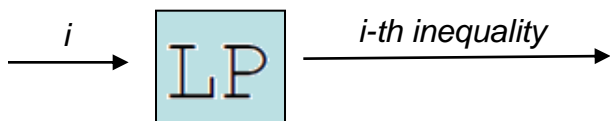
- (1) Bfs can be represented with polynomially many bits
- (2) LP induces a polytope and hence the optimum is achieved on some bfs.
- (3) Perform a *binary search* over the range of the optimum solution:
 - Add the current value as a constraint, and check satisfiability

Complexity Results



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MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTYNESS	in co-NP
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Complexity Results

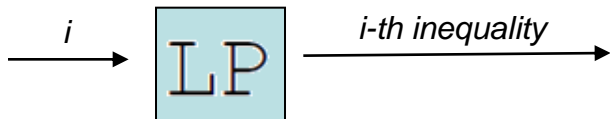


Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
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Routine

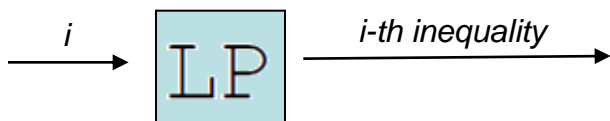
- LP induces a polytope
- Compute the lexicographically maximum bfs solution, by iterating over the various components, and treating each of them as an objective function to be optimized.

Complexity Results



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MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
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Complexity Results



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Routine

- (1) Compute the optimum value
- (2) Define LP' as LP plus the constraint stating that the objective function must equal the optimum value
- (3) Compute a feasible value for LP'

Putting It All Together

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{LP}_k \\
 \left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 \min \epsilon_k \\
 e(S, x) = \epsilon_r^* \quad \forall S \in W_r, r \in \{1, \dots, k-1\} \\
 e(S, x) \leq \epsilon_k \quad \forall S \subset N, S \notin \mathcal{F}_{k-1} \\
 x \in X(\mathcal{G})
 \end{array} \right. \\
 \text{where:} \\
 \bullet V_r = \{x \mid (x, \epsilon_r^*) \text{ is an optimal solution to } \text{LP}_r\} \\
 \bullet W_r = \{S \subseteq N \mid e(S, x) = \epsilon_r^*, \text{ for every } x \in V_r\} \\
 \bullet \mathcal{F}_{k-1} = \{S \subseteq N \mid x(S) = y(S), \forall x, y \in V_{k-1}\}
 \end{array}$$

M.P.S.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 v : 2^N \mapsto \mathbb{R} \\
 + \\
 \text{aff.hull} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{LP}_{k+1}
 \end{array}$$

Compact Encoding

Problem	Result
MEMBERSHIP	in co-NP
NONEMPTYNESS	in co-NP
DIMENSION	in NP
AFFINEHULLCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_{2^b}^P$
OPTIMALVALUECOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_{2^b}^P$
FEASIBLEVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_{2^b}^P$
OPTIMALVECTORCOMPUTATION	in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_{2^b}^P$

Algorithms in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$

- In compact games, two problems have to be faced:
 - (P1)** Sets W and \mathcal{F} contain exponentially many elements, but we would like to avoid listing them explicitly
 - (P2)** Translate LP (complexity) results to “succinct programs”

Putting It All Together

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{LP}_k \\
 \min \epsilon_k \\
 e(S, x) = \epsilon_r^* \quad \forall S \in W_r, r \in \{1, \dots, k-1\} \\
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Algorithms in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$

Theorem

Computing the nucleolus is feasible in $\mathbf{F}\Delta_2^P$. Thus, deciding whether an imputation is the nucleolus is feasible in Δ_2^P .

Computation Approaches

Succinct Linear Programs

Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

Checking Problem

Theorem

*Deciding whether an imputation is the nucleolus is Δ_2^P -hard.
Thus, it is Δ_2^P -complete.*

Checking Problem

Theorem

*Deciding whether an imputation is the nucleolus is Δ_2^P -hard.
Thus, it is Δ_2^P -complete.*

Proof (Reduction for Graph Games: *The cost of individual rationality!*)

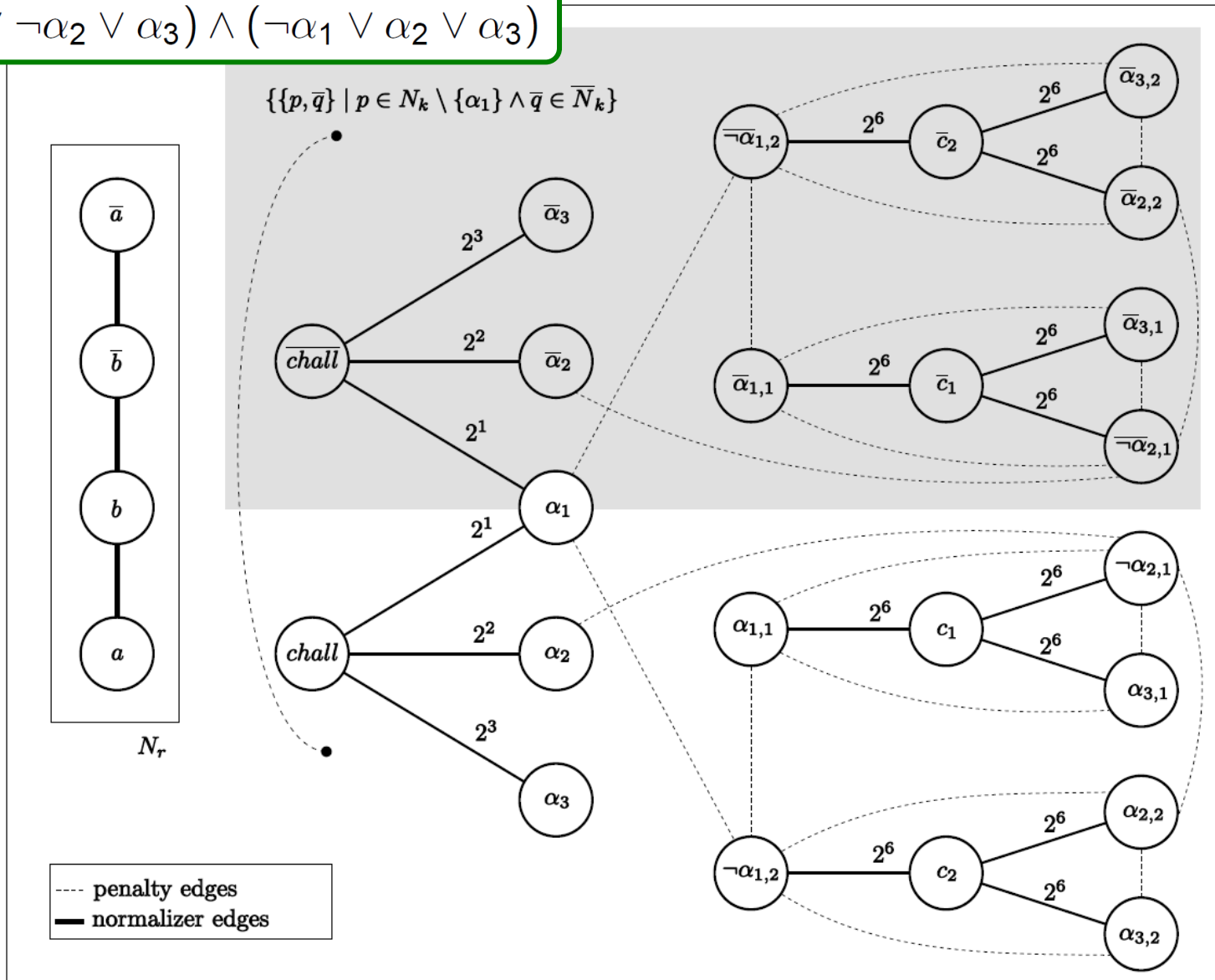
- Deciding the truth value of the least significant variable in the lexicographically maximum satisfying assignment

$$\hat{\phi} = (\alpha_1 \vee \neg\alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3) \wedge (\neg\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3)$$

$$\alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3$$

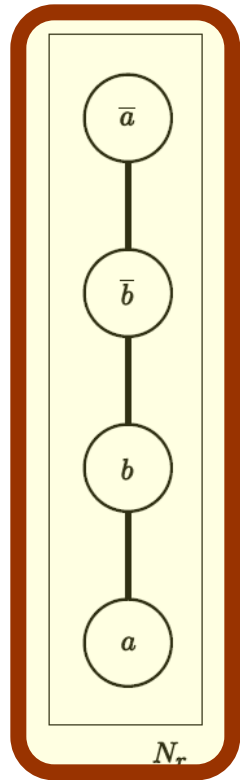
Overview of the Reduction

$$\hat{\phi} = (\alpha_1 \vee \neg\alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3) \wedge (\neg\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3)$$

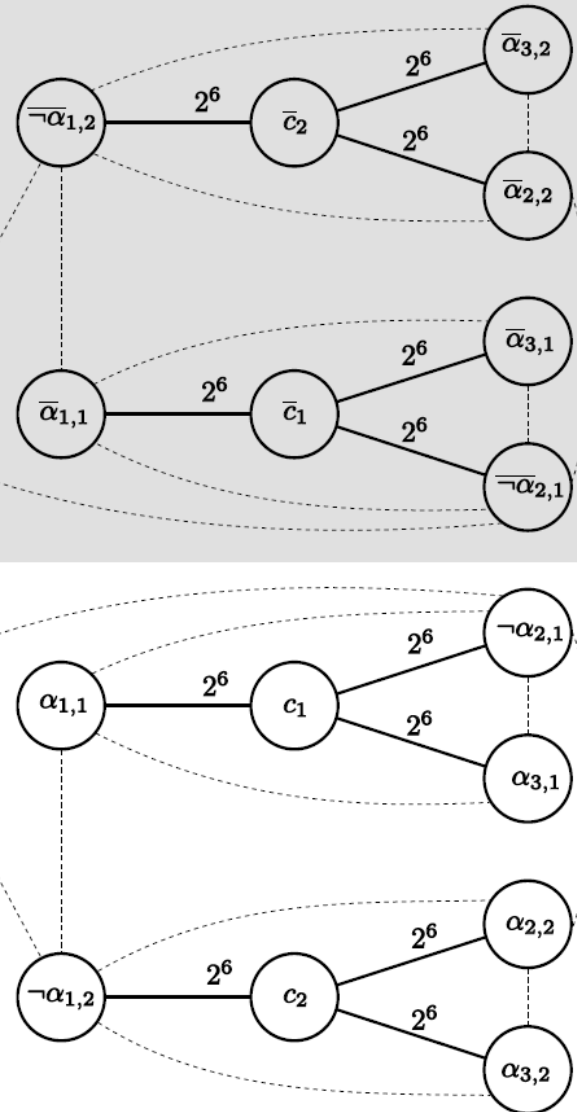
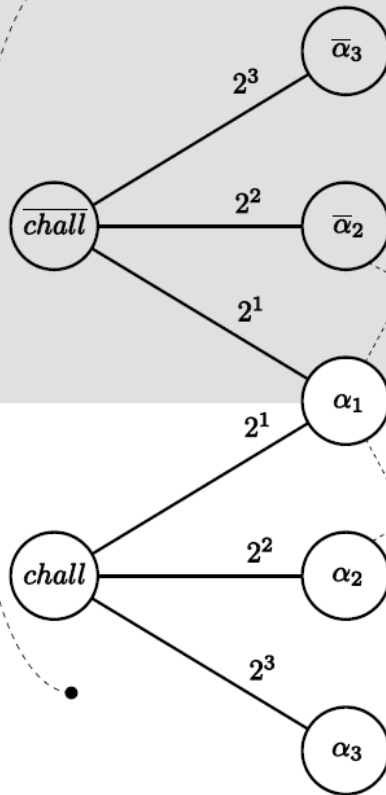


Overview of the Reduction

$$\hat{\phi} = (\alpha_1 \vee \neg\alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3) \wedge (\neg\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3)$$



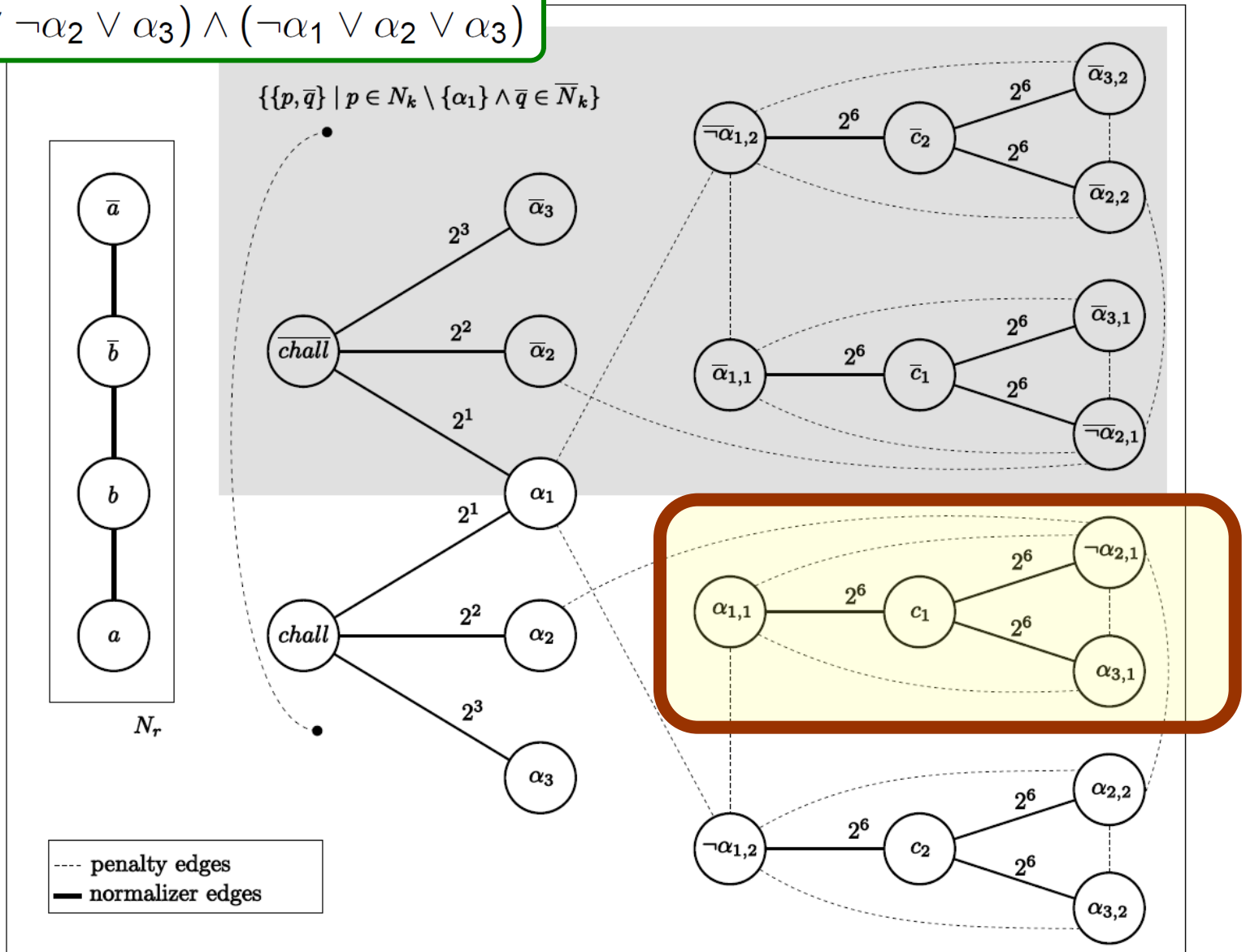
$\{p, \bar{q} \mid p \in N_k \setminus \{\alpha_1\} \wedge \bar{q} \in \bar{N}_k\}$



--- penalty edges
 — normalizer edges

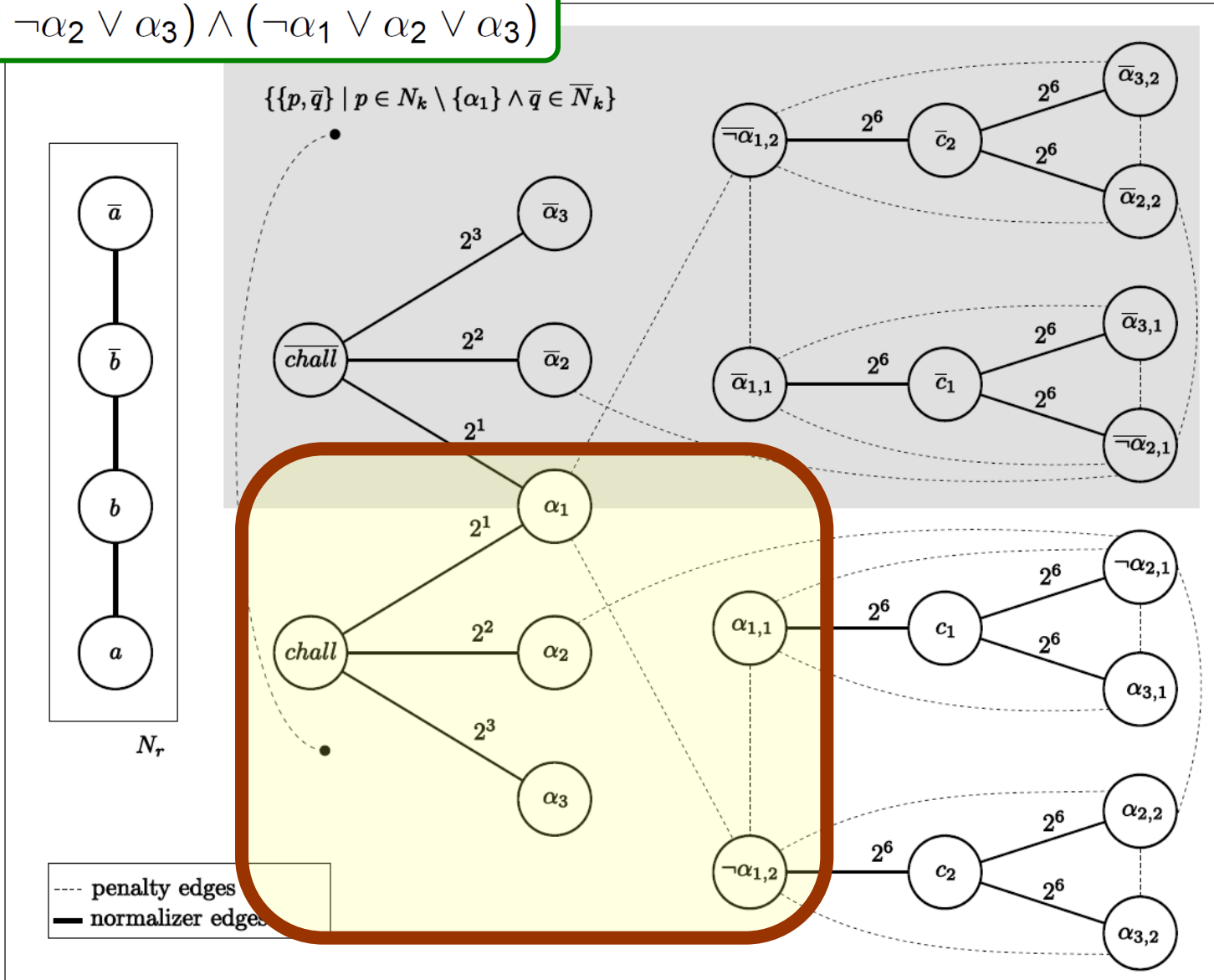
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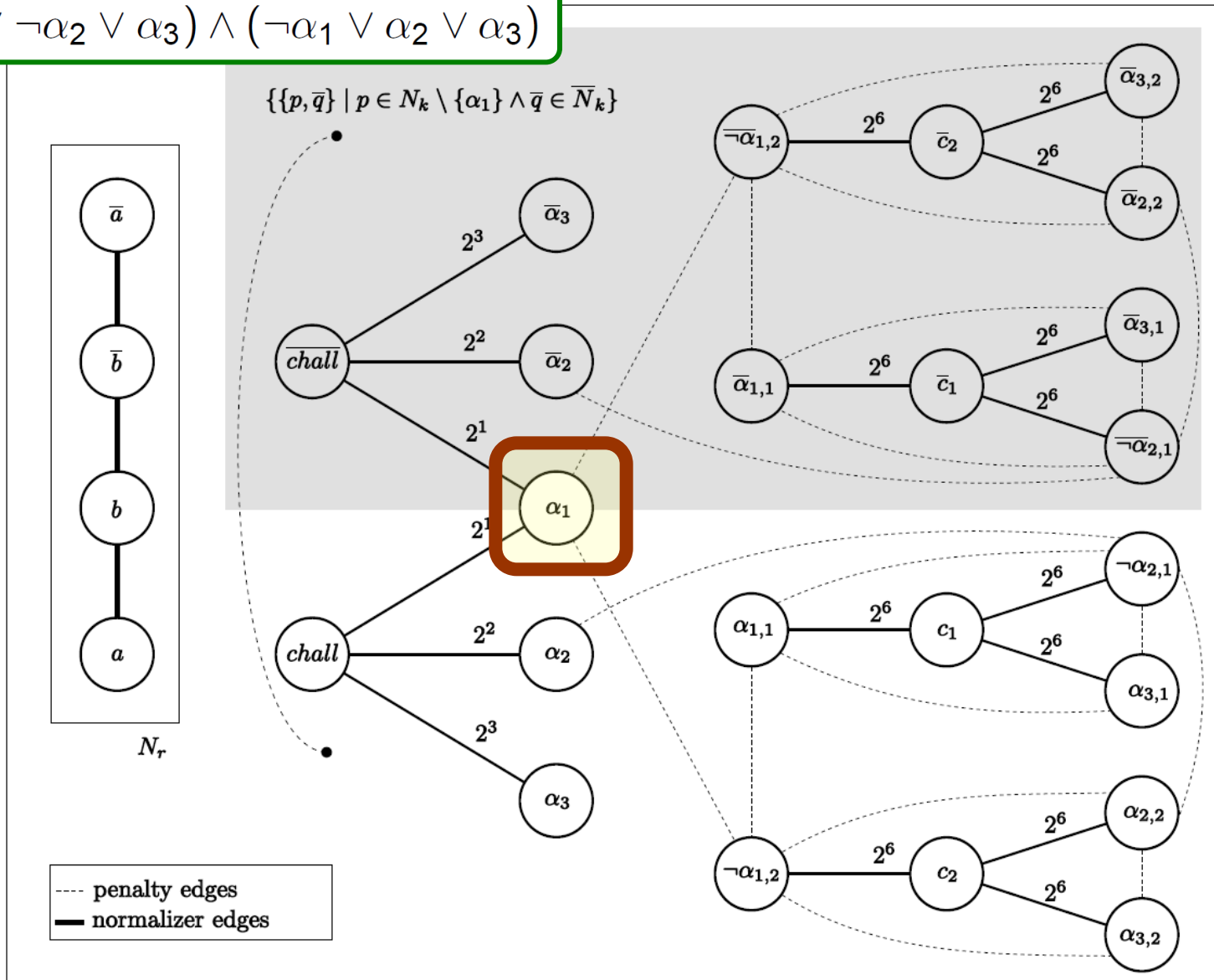
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Overview of the Reduction

$$\hat{\phi} = (\alpha_1 \vee \neg\alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3) \wedge (\neg\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3)$$



Computation Approaches

Succinct Linear Programs

Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

Core

Kernel

Bargaining Set

Computation Approaches

Succinct Linear Programs

Hardness Result

Further Solution Concepts

Core

Kernel

Bargaining Set

Stable Sets

Thank you!